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BASEL CONVENTION

Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
Eleventh meeting
Geneva, 3–6 September 2018
Item 3 (b) (v) of the provisional agenda*

Matters related to the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2018–2019: scientific and technical matters: waste containing nanomaterials

Waste containing nanomaterials

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 5 of decision BC-13/17, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal requested the Secretariat to prepare for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting and subject to the availability of resources, a document compiling information on existing activities that address waste containing nanomaterials and identifying issues related to waste containing nanomaterials that may be relevant to work under the Convention and on options for further work that may be carried out under the Basel Convention related to waste containing nanomaterials within the scope of the Convention, avoiding duplication with activities relating to the matter in other forums.

II. Implementation

2. To assist in collecting information for preparing the above-mentioned document on waste containing nanomaterials, the Secretariat invited Parties and others to provide information on existing activities that address waste containing nanomaterials and issues related to such wastes that may be relevant to the work under the Basel Convention. In response to the invitation, four Parties[1] provided information to the Secretariat (see UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/24).

3. The Secretariat, with the financial support of the Government of Switzerland, engaged consultants to assist in collecting information on existing activities that address waste containing nanomaterials, in identifying issues related to such waste and in preparing recommendations on options for further work that may be carried out under the Basel Convention related to such waste. A report identifying issues related to waste containing nanomaterials that may be relevant to work under the Basel Convention and setting out options for further work that may be carried out under the Convention related to such waste is set out in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/24.

* UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/1.

[1] Germany, Mexico, the Philippines and Thailand.

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III. Proposed action

4. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to take note of the report identifying issues related to waste containing nanomaterials that may be relevant to work under the Basel Convention and setting out options for further work that may be carried out under the Convention related to such waste (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/24) and to consider further work that may be carried out in relation to waste containing nanomaterials, taking the aforementioned report into account.